United Nations A/HRC/26/12

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 March 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-sixth session
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Slovakia

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

GE.14-12706

1412706

Please recycle

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
	Introduction	1–4	3
I.	Summary of the proceedings of the review process	5–109	3
	A. Presentation by the State under review	5–17	3
	B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review	18–109	5
II.	Conclusions and/or recommendations	110–111	15
Annex			
	Composition of the delegation		25

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its eighteenth session from 27 January to 7 February 2014. The review of Slovakia was held at the 11th meeting on 3 February 2014. The delegation of Slovakia was headed by Peter Javorčík, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. At its 17th meeting held on 6 February 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Slovakia.

2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Slovakia: Ethiopia, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Slovakia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/18/SVK/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/18/SVK/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/18/SVK/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Slovakia through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. In its introductory remarks, the delegation of Slovakia expressed the view that the outcome of the universal periodic review provided national authorities with important guidance on how to enhance the protection of human rights, which was one of the main strengths of the review process.

6. The delegation made a brief presentation of its national report, with a focus on how the recommendations from the first cycle of the universal periodic review had been addressed and on the main developments that had taken place in the last four years. As a follow-up to the first cycle, all recommendations had been subject to thorough consideration by the relevant national authorities. A number of legislative and practical measures had been adopted to implement those recommendations during the reporting period.

7. While acknowledging the remaining challenges in some areas, the delegation expressed the commitment of the Government of Slovakia to continuing its efforts to achieve further progress in the institutional and legal framework related to human rights. Furthermore, the delegation reiterated the commitment of the Government to continuing the dialogue with civil society, including by involving its representatives in discussions on policies and programmes relating to human rights.

8. The delegation reported that civil society was involved in the preparation process of the national report through the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality. The draft national report was presented to members of the Council and was discussed by the Council at one of its sessions. In addition, civil society representatives and the public were given an opportunity to provide their comments on the consolidated version of the national report during the consultation process.

9. The delegation also presented the main developments that had taken place since the first cycle of the universal periodic review. Some positive changes had been made in the institutional framework related to human rights. For example, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs had undertaken more responsibility in respect of human rights policies by taking on the role of coordinator of human rights policies and by chairing the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality, which is a forum for regular discussions between Government representatives, civil society and human rights experts. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in its new coordinating role had served to ensure the effective division of tasks and responsibilities among the line ministries in the field of human rights and an efficient follow-up to the issues discussed.

10. During the reporting period, important legislative amendments to the Anti-discrimination Act were adopted, with a view to further strengthening protection against discrimination, including widening the scope of the definition of indirect discrimination. By establishing the Committee for the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Persons in October 2012, the Government responded to the need to ensure better awareness of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

11. As a multi-ethnic country Slovakia had made efforts to create a suitable environment for the preservation and protection of national minorities. In this respect, the Government had been actively engaged in a dialogue with international human rights monitoring bodies, in particular those of the Council of Europe, and had benefited from the invaluable expertise of those bodies when adopting and implementing national policies regarding the rights of national minorities. The dialogue with the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and with the Council of Europe Venice Commission on particular thematic issues served as a positive example in this regard. The Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities had been established in 2012 to, inter alia, ensure adequate follow-up to recommendations made by regional human rights mechanisms on national minorities.

12. Having in mind the absence of a comprehensive concept paper on human rights, the Government had initiated the drafting of a national strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights. In the preparatory stage, a broad discussion on further improvements in the situation of human rights had been initiated, involving various governmental and non-governmental actors. The Government was planning to complete the drafting of the strategy by June 2014.

13. During the reporting period Slovakia had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR). As regards the question of ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED), the delegation stated that all necessary legislative amendments had been adopted and the national ratification procedure was under way. Slovakia had also ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure in December 2013.

14. The delegation stated that Slovakia had started the process of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. The relevant legal process had been initiated for the ratification of the

Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which remained a priority, and the Government expected to complete the ratification of the amendments in 2014.

15. The delegation stated that the situation on the rights of the Roma required further efforts to achieve satisfactory results from a human rights, social and economic perspective. In general, improving the situation of the Roma minority had been a long-term priority for the Government. The Strategy for Roma Integration up to 2020, which was adopted in 2012, represented the primary comprehensive policy paper for the social integration of the Roma and provided a basis for adopting the policies in four main areas of integration: health, employment, housing and education.

16. As noted by the delegation, the Government acknowledged the need for a comprehensive approach to the process of integration of the Roma. Despite slow progress in this field, there had been several positive examples, in particular with regard to housing, health and employment.

17. The delegation stated that a number of challenging tasks remained to be completed. The establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles had been among the most pressing objectives. Necessary legislative steps were expected to be taken in the near future. Finally, a procedure to establish a national independent institution for the rights of the child was under way and the first legislative draft was expected in the first half of 2014.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 67 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. The Russian Federation noted the adoption of programmes to safeguard the rights of minorities and the enactment of legislation concerning non-discrimination. However, problems relating to the Roma community tended to be addressed, inter alia, through evictions and denial of their rights. The Russian Federation made a recommendation.

20. Serbia commended the accession to CRPD and its optional protocol and to OP-ICESCR. It supported the reforms to the human rights infrastructure and commended the policies on social inclusion of the Roma focusing on education, employment, health and housing. It asked about the experience of Slovakia in overcoming the challenges to a more efficient implementation of anti-discrimination laws.

21. Slovenia welcomed the intention of Slovakia to provide more police specialists to work with Roma communities, but was concerned that calls by the Ombudswoman to investigate violations of the rights of the Roma after the incident of June 2013 in Moldava and Bodvou and to convene a dedicated parliamentary session had been rejected. Slovenia made recommendations.

22. Spain took note of the action taken to combat discrimination and integrate the Roma community. It recognized that important steps had been taken to promote tolerance, intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity. Spain made recommendations.

23. Sri Lanka welcomed the inclusion of human rights in the school curricula, but was concerned about discrimination against Roma children and their disproportionate numbers in special and segregated education. It noted the efforts made to combat human trafficking in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and other stakeholders. It made recommendations.

24. Sweden looked forward to receiving responses to its advance questions concerning the Roma population, specifically about the steps being taken to ensure equal education opportunities for Roma children and about land and property issues in relation to Roma settlements. Sweden made recommendations.

25. Thailand commended the progress made in integrating education on human rights into the national school curricula. Despite actions to integrate people belonging to ethnic minorities better, it noted that the Roma minority continued to face discrimination and stigmatization. It applauded Slovakia for the steps taken to promote gender equality, but was concerned about domestic and gender-based violence. Thailand made recommendations.

26. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia noted the strengthened legal framework through accession to international conventions and the adoption and implementation of domestic law, in particular in the areas of anti-discrimination and human rights legislation. It enquired about the functioning of the Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance. It made a recommendation.

27. Tunisia noted the broadening of the mandate of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs to include human rights, the establishment of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, the adoption of the Strategy for Roma Integration and the signing and ratification of human rights instruments, including CRPD and its optional protocol. Tunisia made recommendations.

28. Turkmenistan welcomed the measures taken to improve the human rights institutional framework of Slovakia during the period under review. Turkmenistan made recommendations.

29. The United States of America welcomed the adoption of the Strategy for Roma Integration. It was concerned about extremism, violence and discrimination against the Roma and a continued lack of judicial accountability, including the abuse of power by judges and the low level of public trust in judicial fairness and integrity. It made recommendations.

30. Uzbekistan welcomed ratification of CRPD, OP-CRPD, OP-ICESCR and the Optional Protocol to CRC. It commended the Strategy for Roma Integration, the concept of combating extremism and the establishment of the Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance. However, the treaty bodies highlighted persistent discrimination and racism against the Roma, ethnic minorities and migrants. Uzbekistan made recommendations.

31. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterated the concern expressed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) regarding the persistent stigmatization and discrimination of the Roma community and other ethnic minorities. It was also concerned about the appointment of judges by the national executive and the failure to provide legal aid from the moment a person is deprived of his or her liberty. It made recommendations.

32. Viet Nam commended Slovakia on its human rights achievements, including accession to international instruments, the harmonization of national laws with European Union legislation, the implementation of anti-discrimination recommendations, the elimination of racism and combating human trafficking. It made recommendations.

33. Albania noted the strengthening of human rights bodies within public institutions, the drafting of strategies and amendments to existing legislation, particularly in the key area of anti-discrimination. It commended the ratification of CRPD and its Optional Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against

women and domestic violence. It remained concerned that Roma people still face discrimination, suffer social stigmatization and exclusion and at the high drop-out rate from school of Roma children. Albania made a recommendation.

34. Algeria welcomed the ratification of CRPD, the establishment of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities and the adoption of the Strategy for Roma Integration. It encouraged adoption of the strategy that was under consideration to promote and protect human rights. It was concerned about growing racial discrimination and about leaders known to be anti-Roma acceding to key local authority positions. Algeria made recommendations.

35. Angola noted the ratification of international human rights instruments since the last review and commended the establishment of the Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance, amendments to anti-discrimination legislation and the provision of compensation for victims of violence. Angola made a recommendation.

36. Argentina welcomed ratification of CRPD, OP-CRPD and OP-ICESCR. It commended the amendment of the Criminal Code and the Anti-discrimination Act as essential steps to combat and prevent racial discrimination. Argentina made recommendations.

37. Australia welcomed progress on ensuring the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It acknowledged the adoption of the Strategy for Roma Integration, but remained concerned about the exclusion of and violence against the Roma. It noted media concerns over judicial corruption and commended the establishment of a judicial reform task force. Australia made recommendations.

38. Austria commended Slovakia for the numerous efforts undertaken since the last review. It was, however, concerned about the pace of implementation of the Strategy for Roma Integration. Austria made recommendations.

39. The delegation stated that the improvement in the situation of the Roma remained among the priorities of the Government. In 2012, the Strategy for Roma Integration up to 2020 was approved to address the challenges of social inclusion of Roma communities. The Revised National Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015 (updated for 2011–2015) was considered as the action plan of the Strategy in four priority areas: education, employment, health and housing. The Strategy had envisaged cooperation with civil society, including cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on the rights of the Roma. The Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities was assigned to supervise the implementation of specific policies, programmes and projects of the Strategy.

40. Segregation based on ethnicity and discrimination was explicitly prohibited by the Anti-discrimination Act and by the School Act. The domestic legal framework provided full guarantees for the equal treatment of all children in education regardless of their ethnic or other origin. A number of systematic measures had been adopted to promote education, including free preschool education, specialized classes with compensatory and development programmes, financial assistance and subsidies for children of parents in material need. The Ministry of Education had adopted two internal regulations that clearly instructed schools and school facilities to refrain from any form of discrimination, exclusion or segregation of children.

41. The delegation responded to a question regarding the court judgment concerning the segregation of Roma children in a school in eastern Slovakia. As a follow-up to the ruling of the court, concrete measures aimed, inter alia, at promoting the integration of children, in particular in school canteens and school yards, had been adopted.

42. As regards the construction of so-called "anti-Roma" walls, the delegation indicated that Slovakia denounced and prohibited segregation and "ghettoization" of any kind. Municipalities and local authorities were systematically requested by the relevant national bodies to prevent the construction of walls that would separate parts of municipalities where the Roma lived from those where the majority population lived. Municipalities had been strongly encouraged to work actively with Roma communities.

43. The delegation stated that housing was a major issue, as there were more households than housing units in Slovakia. With a 97 per cent rate of home ownership, it had been difficult for State bodies to intervene directly in the housing market to ensure that low-income families had access to housing. The Government had adopted measures to create the necessary conditions to ensure availability of housing for vulnerable groups, including the Roma. Due to the State programme for housing, subsidies for social rental housing had been allocated to municipalities to make housing rents affordable for low-income families, including Roma communities.

44. Land ownership for the Roma remained a problem. In the countryside, property had been fragmented into small sections of private property and groups of Roma might be settled on land belonging to various owners. The delegation reported on the draft building code, which envisaged a plan for ensuring land ownership for the Roma.

45. The new legislation on the provision of social benefits concerned only the provision of assistance in material form. A person might be entitled to this benefit on condition that he or she carried out some community services or work amounting to 32 hours a month. The projects entitled "Field social work in municipalities" and "Community centres" were among other activities aimed at reducing the level of poverty. A project on increasing employment and the employability of disadvantaged jobseekers with the objective of providing employment services to jobseekers from socially excluded communities was in progress.

46. In 2013, the Government approved the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for 2014–2019, which included solutions for institutional support for victims of violence against women and domestic violence. Additionally, in January 2014, the Government approved the National Strategy for the Protection of Children against Violence which aimed, inter alia, to establish a national coordination framework for addressing violence against children.

47. Azerbaijan commended the signing and ratification of CRPD and its Optional Protocol. It noted concerns expressed by the treaty bodies about gender inequalities, the continued stigmatization of and discrimination against the Roma and the prevalent stereotyping and widespread exclusion of the Roma from education, housing, health and political participation. Azerbaijan made recommendations.

48. Bangladesh shared the concerns of the treaty bodies about gender inequalities and prejudice, discrimination, stigmatization and negative attitudes towards Roma people, as well as prevalent stereotyping and the exclusion of minority groups from education, housing, health care and political participation. It deplored racist statements in political discourse and media-based hate speech. Bangladesh made recommendations.

49. Belarus expressed concern about racism in the media, the cruel treatment of patients in psychiatric hospitals, torture in police custody, the segregation of Roma in the education system and in access to housing, the cross-border trafficking of women and the internal trafficking of Roma women and children. Belarus made recommendations.

50. Belgium congratulated Slovakia on signing and ratifying CRPD and its Optional Protocol, and OP-ICESCR. It considered that more could be achieved in combating discrimination and promoting women's rights. Belgium made recommendations.

51. Bosnia and Herzegovina praised the steps taken to promote and improve the performance of the human rights institutional framework and the signing and ratification of several international human rights instruments. It requested more details of the strategy to promote and protect human rights which was under preparation. It asked whether projects on inclusive education and improving the access of Roma children to education had brought better results.

52. Brazil encouraged Slovakia to fulfil its obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC). It asked whether the Strategy for Roma Integration foresaw mechanisms to encourage the enrolment of Roma children in regular schools and what measures had been adopted to promote gender equality in the work force. Brazil made a recommendation.

53. Bulgaria welcomed the information on the Strategy for Roma Integration and the continued activities of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities. It noted the amendments to the Asylum Act and the Act on Residence of Foreigners, which provided protection to asylum seekers and foreigners. Bulgaria made a recommendation.

54. Cambodia commended the initiatives to combat violence against women and discrimination and promote social inclusion. In particular, it noted the Revised National Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, the adoption of the Strategy for Roma Integration and the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities. Cambodia made a recommendation.

55. Canada asked whether the Government was considering a damage cap for civil defamation cases and, if not, what other strategies were being considered to prevent their effect on media self-censorship and freedom of expression. It stated that the human rights violations noted in the extraordinary report of the Ombudswoman warranted further review. Canada made recommendations.

56. Chile commended the Strategy for Roma Integration and the revision of the National Action Plan of the Decade of Roma Inclusion suggested by CERD, the ratification of CRPD and OP-CRPD and the steps taken to ratify OP-CAT. It noted that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) had expressed concern about the lack of access to safe water for all sectors of the population. Chile made recommendations.

57. China commended the achievements in enhancing gender equality, protecting women's and children's rights and promoting human rights education. It urged Slovakia to take more effective measures to protect the rights of minority groups, including the rights of Roma people to health and education. China made recommendations.

58. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the administrative and institutional reforms planned to ensure the rule of law, including strengthening the legislation protecting minorities, combating discrimination and criminalizing racial discrimination and extremism, the provisions on rights of asylum, the actions to integrate the Roma people and protect victims of domestic violence and the human rights training for the security forces. It made recommendations.

59. Cuba welcomed the efforts made for implementation of recommendations since the last review and the results therefrom, in particular the adoption of the Anti-discrimination Act. It regretted the persistence of discriminatory practices, the segregation of Roma children in schools and racist and xenophobic conduct exacerbated by the economic crisis. Cuba made recommendations.

60. Cyprus welcomed the signing and ratification of international human rights instruments, including CRPD and its Optional Protocol, and the steps taken to mainstream human rights, including those of the Roma. It requested information on measures taken thus

far to combat human trafficking and on the specific assistance provided to victims. Cyprus made a recommendation.

61. The Czech Republic commended the efforts of Slovakia to improve the access of socially disadvantaged children to education. It noted that it had not yet ratified OP-CAT. It made recommendations.

62. Denmark noted that Slovakia had not ratified OP-CAT, which it considers a key instrument in preventing torture. It welcomed the efforts on Roma integration, including by the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, but was concerned about reported discrimination, intolerance, stigmatization and prejudice against them. Denmark made recommendations.

63. Ecuador commended ratification of CRPD, OP-CRPD and OP-ICESCR and the establishment of the Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance. It encouraged the continued efforts to promote and protect children's rights and, in particular, to build an inclusive education system. Ecuador made recommendations.

64. Egypt commended the accession to CRPD, improvements to alternative child care and human rights education and training activities. It noted challenges, such as combating violence against women, establishing wage equality and eradicating human trafficking. It was concerned about the continued discrimination against minorities. An independent national human rights institution should be established. Egypt made recommendations.

65. Estonia encouraged the continued steps to implement policy programmes for Roma integration, to adopt the National Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, intensify efforts to combat gender-based violence, promote the participation of women in the public and private sectors and diminish the gender wage gap. It hoped for swift ratification of the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute. Estonia made recommendations.

66. Finland commended the adoption of the Strategy for Roma Integration. It asked how Slovakia would ensure that a policy of desegregation of Roma children in schools was effectively implemented in practice. It further asked how Slovakia would ensure the active participation of Roma representatives in implementing and assessing the results of the strategy. Finland made recommendations.

67. France encouraged Slovakia to ratify OP-CAT and CPED, adopt its planned strategy to promote and protect human rights and update its action plan to combat extremism. It asked whether a deadline had been set for implementing the measures envisaged to combat discrimination. France made recommendations.

68. Germany was concerned about the situatic of minorities, especially the Roma and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities. It asked about the measures taken by Slovakia concerning the separating walls built by local populations, the high school drop-out rate among Roma children and their segregation in schools. It also asked for information on efforts to increase acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and to combat discrimination and on the progress made in reducing the unequal treatment of women and better protecting them from domestic violence.

69. Guatemala welcomed the appointment of a Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, and the adoption of the concept for combating extremism, the Strategy for Roma Integration and the Decade for Roma Inclusion. It shared the concern of CERD about the alleged increased in hate speech in the media and on the Internet and urged further action to promote tolerance. Guatemala made a recommendation.

70. The Holy See commended the progress made in protecting persons with disabilities, children, migrants and trafficked persons, the fight against racism and xenophobia through new legislation and the ratification of international treaties. It stated that while the situation of the Roma, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers had improved, some challenges remained. The Holy See made recommendations.

71. Hungary requested an update on the challenges facing the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities. Expressing concern about the restrictive provisions of the Language Law, it urged Slovakia to adopt more comprehensive legislation on minority languages. It welcomed the ratification of CRPD, OP-CRPD and OP-ICESCR. Hungary made recommendations.

72. India welcomed the establishment of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities. It noted that several treaty bodies had expressed concern about the limited mandate, independence and resources of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights and continued stigmatization and discrimination against the Roma in education, housing, health and political participation. India made recommendations.

73. The delegation stated that access to family planning services had been provided to all; men and women enjoyed equal rights in family planning and had been provided with access to the necessary information in order to exercise this right. Contraceptives and other methods of family planning were widely available throughout the country and the cost could be covered by public and private health insurance based on medical justification, which enabled an individual assessment of the health risks to be taken into account, as well as ensuring effective use of public health-care funds.

74. In response to a question concerning lengthy court proceedings, the delegation referred to the resolution of 2012 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe related to judgements against Slovakia on violations of article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Committee of Minsters had emphasized that Slovakia had taken sufficient measures, including legal amendments in the period from 2007 to 2010, leading to a decrease in the length of civil proceedings since 2004.

75. The delegation stated that several measures had been taken jointly by the Constitutional Court, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court and the Bar Association to ensure the effective enforcement of orders by the Constitutional Court to other courts to expedite proceedings with significant delays. For example, the Constitutional Court had been maintaining a register of cases which had excessive lengthy proceedings. The Ministry of Justice and the courts had taken the responsibility of monitoring those cases. Disciplinary penalties could be imposed on judges and lawyers in such cases. Additionally, the drafting of a new civil procedure code had been initiated, with the objective of introducing new mechanisms to accelerate civil proceedings.

76. The delegation provided information on the measures taken to address issues of transparency and corruption in the judiciary, including improvements in legal aid services and changes to the Law on Judges. The publication on the website of the Ministry of Justice of all decisions of the courts had become mandatory.

77. In response to a query on delays in the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the delegation reported that Slovakia, as one of the first signatories of the Convention, had started the process of necessary legal amendments to enable the ratification of the Convention. The parliament had adopted a number of amendments to relevant laws that had been drafted based on the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Slovakia had adopted the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women. A draft document on the proposal for ratification of the

Convention had been submitted for broad consultation in September 2013. Bearing in mind that comments had been received from more than 100 NGOs, the Government had decided to continue discussion of the document.

78. The delegation stated that the Constitution prohibited discrimination on any grounds and that the Anti-discrimination Act provided further protection from discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation. In 2012, the Committee for the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Persons had been established with a mandate to contribute to further promotion of the rights of such persons. It was chaired by the Ministry of Justice and consisted of 24 members representing State bodies and NGOs. The Committee had been actively involved in human rights policymaking.

79. In relation to the ratification of CPED, the delegation stated that the national ratification process had already started and that the necessary amendments to legislation had been adopted to enable its ratification. The possibility of the ratification of OP-CAT had been subject to examination, with no final decision as yet.

80. Indonesia commended the implementation of the Strategy for Roma Integration, the amendment of the Anti-discrimination Act and the establishment of an emergency transit centre for refugees. Indonesia made recommendations.

81. The Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the report compiled by OHCHR raised concerns about the increase in violence against the Roma community, including verbal and physical attacks, and about the ill-treatment of detainees by police officers. It made recommendations.

82. Ireland welcomed the amendment of the Anti-discrimination Act. It expressed concern about policies and practices resulting in lower-quality education for Roma children owing to segregation. It regretted the rejection of previous recommendations concerning measures in that regard. It noted with regret that the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights had failed to meet the standards of the Paris Principles. Ireland made recommendations.

83. Israel commended the establishment of the Plenipotentiary on National Minorities and the efforts to protect the rights of the Roma community by promoting integration in the areas of housing, health and employment. Israel made a recommendation.

84. Libya commended the schemes for the promotion and protection of human rights that were being implemented by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. It welcomed the amendment of the Anti-discrimination Act and the preparation of a national strategy to promote and protect human rights. Libya made a recommendation.

85. Malaysia noted the progress made in protecting the rights of minority and vulnerable groups, promoting gender equality and promoting and protecting the rights of women and children. However, it noted the persistence of negative attitudes to persons belonging to ethnic minorities. Malaysia made recommendations.

86. Mexico commended the Revised National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion and the adoption of the Strategy for Roma Integration and urged steps to ensure their effective implementation. It welcomed the establishment of the Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance and noted the undertaking to achieve gender equality in employment. Mexico made recommendations.

87. Montenegro welcomed steps to adopt a national strategy to promote and protect human rights and the continuous dialogue with civil society through the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality. It recognized the determination of Slovakia to continue its coordinated efforts to implement the

recommendations of monitoring bodies and to protect minorities by strengthening the institutional framework. Montenegro made recommendations.

88. Morocco welcomed the commitment to remedy the loss of accreditation of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. It commended the establishment of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities and its work on behalf of the Roma community, the amendment of the Anti-discrimination Act and the Strategy for Roma Integration. It enquired about proposed future action in the area of human rights education. Morocco made a recommendation.

89. The Netherlands welcomed the efforts made by Slovakia in improving the implementation of international obligations in the area of human rights and the rule of law, as demonstrated by the provisions of the Criminal Code concerning racially-motivated crimes, including incitement to racial hatred. It was concerned about the status of women's rights, particularly with regard to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and about the high incidence of violence against women. It made recommendations.

90. Nicaragua commended the promotion of institutional reforms to follow up on the recommendations of the universal periodic review and the development of national programmes to address problems such as gender inequality, discrimination against minorities and domestic violence. Nicaragua made recommendations.

91. Nigeria encouraged Slovakia to ratify additional international human rights treaties and urged it to fulfil its obligations under the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. It also urged Slovakia to address the problems affecting the status of citizenship of the Roma community without delay.

92. While noting that Slovakia had introduced important measures to reduce discrimination, Norway noted that the enrolment of Roma students in special schools or classes remained disproportionate. It welcomed the efforts announced to propose reforms of the judiciary. It noted that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons continued to face discrimination, despite the amendment to the Criminal Code concerning sexual orientation. Norway made recommendations.

93. Oman noted that the rights stipulated by the School Act were guaranteed equally to all, in accordance with the principle of equal treatment in education enshrined in the Anti-discrimination Act. It commended the efforts to promote educational and training programmes and services for people with disabilities. Oman made a recommendation.

94. Pakistan commended the ratification of international human rights treaties and the adoption of legislative measures to fulfil human rights obligations. It welcomed the efforts made to prepare a national strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights. Pakistan made recommendations.

95. The Philippines noted the steps taken to combat discrimination, racism and racially-motivated crimes, particularly incitement to discrimination and racial violence against migrants. It commended the actions to protect women and children from violence and abuse, especially the law that allows for victims of violent crimes, including rape, sexual violence and abuse, to be compensated. It made recommendations.

96. Portugal welcomed the establishment of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities and commended the efforts to combat discrimination, racism and xenophobia. It welcomed the introduction into legislation of the prohibition of corporal punishment of children. It commended the ratification of CRPD, OP-CRPD and OP-ICESCR. Portugal made recommendations.

97. The Republic of Moldova enquired about the results of the 2009–2013 National Strategy for Gender Equality, particularly regarding the participation of women in decision-making positions. While welcoming the implementation of programmes on human trafficking, it noted that the identification of victims of trafficking could be improved. It made recommendations.

98. The United Kingdom urged support for the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities and the policies to address the marginalization, high unemployment and low living standards of the Roma. It also urged further action against cross-border trafficking and encouraged the promotion of a national programme to combat trafficking and development of a future strategy. It made recommendations.

99. Romania noted the progress in combating discrimination and promoting affirmative action. It requested additional examples of affirmative measures in favour of members of vulnerable groups. Romania made recommendations.

100. Uruguay commended the adoption of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality and the recent ratification of CRPD and OP-ICESCR. It noted a lack of awareness among the general public, especially in remote areas, of government policies to combat discrimination. Uruguay made recommendations.

101. The delegation stated that, despite the resignation of the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities and the Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society in 2013, both bodies remained fully functional. The Government was in the process of identifying suitable candidates for the Plenipotentiary for National Minorities in close consultation with the representatives of national minorities.

102. Human rights training had been an important part of the measures undertaken to ensure that the police functioned in line with human rights standards. However, cases of excessive use of force by police had been still reported. The internal inspection structure within the Ministry of Interior had been in place to investigate such allegations, in addition to the investigations carried out by the Prosecutor's Office.

103. Regarding the questions on combating extremism, the delegation stated that several steps had been taken. The necessary legislative amendments had been adopted with a view to enhancing the fight against extremism, including the 2013 amendments to the Criminal Code. Police had been trained to identify cases of extremism effectively. The special intelligence services had been also involved in monitoring the situation in this area.

104. Under national legislation, an organizer of a public assembly had been required to ensure an adequate number of stewards during a public assembly and, in case of need, the organizer had been entitled to request the assistance of the police.

105. The right to work was guaranteed in the constitution. Measures had been taken to address the issue of youth employment.

106. The delegation reiterated the commitment of the Government to continue promoting gender equality. Several new measures had been introduced to reduce the wage gap between men and women, including the start of a national awareness-raising campaign.

107. The Government had acknowledged the need of special support for early childhood education as a priority measure to ensure inclusive education for Roma children. A national project on inclusive education had identified another area that the Government was planning to focus on in order to ensure an adequate environment for Roma children in mainstream schools.

108. In conclusion, the delegation expressed its gratitude for the fruitful dialogue on the human rights situation in Slovakia. It thanked States for their questions submitted in advance and for all the questions raised during the dialogue.

109. The delegation stated that all recommendations would be subject to thorough consideration and examination. It emphasized the strong commitment of the Government to creating the conditions for the protection of and respect for human rights. The dialogue with civil society would significantly contribute to this task.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

110. **The following recommendations will be examined by Slovakia which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council in June 2014:**

110.1. **Reconsider the ratification of OP-CAT (Denmark);**

110.2. **Ratify OP-CAT (Estonia) (Hungary);**

110.3. **Ratify CPED and OP-CAT (Tunisia) (Chile);**

110.4. **Continue its efforts initiated to achieve ratification of CPED and accept the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (Argentina);**

110.5. **Ratify promptly CPED (Belgium);**

110.6. **Consider becoming party to ICRMW and to OP-CAT (Azerbaijan);**

110.7. **Ratify ICRMW (Algeria) (Egypt);**

110.8. **Consider the possibility of ratifying ICRMW (Ecuador);**

110.9. **Take a step further in the area of migrants' rights protection and consider ratifying the ICRMW and ILO Convention no. 189 (Philippines);**

110.10. **Ratify ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

110.11. **Ratify those international instruments, which have not yet been ratified (Côte d'Ivoire);**

110.12. **Favourably respond and react to future calls and recommendations of the Ombudswoman, particularly when it comes to the situation of Roma (Slovenia);**

110.13. **Implement recommendations made in the Office of the Ombudswoman's extraordinary report related to human rights complaints on access to education, procedural guarantees in the demolition of illegal dwellings and police conduct (Canada);**

110.14. **Take all necessary steps to ensure that its national human rights institution is fully effective and independent in accordance with the Paris Principles (France); take appropriate measures to ensure that the national human rights institution functions in compliance with the Paris Principles (India); take further steps to ensure that its national human rights institution is aligned with the Paris Principles (Philippines); continue with its efforts for the establishment of independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Pakistan); undertake the necessary steps to ensure that its national institution is fully consistent with the Paris Principles (Morocco); take the necessary measures to strengthen the independence and mandate of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights and ensure that it complies with the Paris Principles (Mexico);strengthen the independence and**

mandate of its National Centre for Human Rights so as to enable it to function in compliance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);

110.15. **Bring its National Centre for Human Rights into conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Turkmenistan);**

110.16. **Continue working in order to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, taking into account the recommendations from the treaty bodies in this regard (Guatemala);**

110.17. **Continue its efforts to re-accredit the National Slovak Human Rights Centre as the national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Algeria);**

110.18. **Strengthen the independence and mandate of the National Slovak Human Rights Centre so that it operates in compliance with the Paris Principles and be given the necessary resources (Tunisia);**

110.19. **Strengthen the independence and the mandate of its national human rights institution and provide it with adequate financial and human resources to assist it in meeting the standards required by the Paris Principles (Ireland);**

110.20. **Allocate appropriate resources to the Office of the Ombudswoman to facilitate equal access to justice for all citizens and further strengthen its monitoring and reporting capacity (Canada);**

110.21. **Establish an independent mechanism to investigate complaints related to discrimination and segregation within the schooling system (Egypt);**

110.22. **Work with the EU and the UN for further participation of other important human rights mechanisms, including the protocols to the CRC (Viet Nam);**

110.23. **That the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality take steps towards the implementation of a nation-wide strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights (United Kingdom);**

110.24. **Speed up the preparation of a national human rights promotion and protection strategy (Uruguay);**

110.25. **Promptly put in place the national strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights that integrates the contributions arising from this review (Nicaragua);**

110.26. **Continue its efforts and momentum on the current human rights programme, with more focus on social inclusion, participation of the Roma in employment opportunity, adequate housing, gender equality and capacity building for national human rights institutions in the country (Viet Nam);**

110.27. **Continue efforts to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to promote and protect human rights, including through the ratification of ICRMW, formulation of a national human rights plan of action, and expediting the amendment process to the law regulating the NHRI so that it is fully in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

110.28. **Continue its efforts particularly to ensure equal treatment in the education system and equal access to job opportunities (France);**

110.29. **That a national action plan for the protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons in Slovakia is developed and implemented, within the context of the planned human rights strategy (Norway);**

110.30. **Develop additional programmes, including a national action plan for children, to enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children (Philippines);**

110.31. **Further improve human rights records in the country (Azerbaijan);**

110.32. **Include in its National Strategy for Gender Equality 2009–2013 measures to promote the participation of women in decision-making bodies in the public and private sphere (Spain);**

110.33. **Expedite its implementation of the measures to ensure equality for men and women (Bangladesh);**

110.34. **Take steps to ensure equality between men and women that guarantee non-discrimination and gender equality (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

110.35. **Strengthen measures aimed at ensuring gender equality as well as preventing violence against women (Côte d'Ivoire);**

110.36. **Take measures to effectively implement the prohibition of discrimination enshrined in the Anti-Discrimination Act (Pakistan);**

110.37. **Continue its efforts in effectively implementing the amendment to the Anti-Discrimination Act with a view to further combating discrimination in the country (Cambodia);**

110.38. **Enforce the legal and institutional framework on combating discrimination (Romania);**

110.39. **Take steps to effectively implement the ban on discrimination contained in the anti-discrimination law and the law on schools (Belgium);**

110.40. **Increase awareness raising programmes and campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for diversity among its population (Malaysia);**

110.41. **Continue awareness-raising programmes about racial and ethnic diversity in schools, strengthening the monitoring of the implementation of anti-discriminatory policies, especially in remote areas (Uruguay);**

110.42. **Step up efforts to combat prejudices against ethnic minorities and to improve relations between the general public and minority communities (Malaysia);**

110.43. **Intensify measures aiming at promoting tolerance, intercultural dialogue and the respect of diversity, strengthening awareness-raising campaigns (Spain);**110.44.**Take actions to combat discrimination and prejudice by promoting intercultural dialogue in cooperation with the media to prevent racist statements, hate speech and attacks against ethnic minorities and promote respect for cultural diversity (Thailand);**

110.45. **Continue to take measures to combat intolerance based on ethnic origin, in particular against the Roma community (Portugal);**

110.46. **Take the necessary measures to continue promoting a culture of tolerance and non-discrimination in Slovak society (Nicaragua);**

110.47. **Intensify efforts in the field of ethnic diversity, including by strengthening the inclusive and multicultural education system (Indonesia);**

110.48. **Take more resolute legal and practical measures to combat intolerance based on ethnic origin and take further steps to promote mutual understanding and respect between persons belonging to various groups (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

110.49. **Adopt effective measures to prevent any manifestation of discrimination and racism (Uzbekistan);**

110.50. **Intensify efforts to combat discrimination against ethnic minorities, particularly Roma and migrants (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

110.51. **Continue to intensify the necessary actions to eliminate discrimination as well as the trend and/or media dissemination of stereotypes, which may encourage discrimination against minorities, particularly against Roma and Hungarians. (Argentina);**

110.52. **Eradicate stereotypes and widespread abuse of Roma (Bangladesh);**

110.53. **Take concrete steps to further develop and implement initiatives targeting not only the Roma minority but also the majority population, including children and adults, in order to increase mutual understanding and respect with a view of combating the nourishment of societal discrimination against Roma (Denmark);**

110.54. **Make all necessary efforts to address discrimination against Roma, including in employment, education, health care, housing and loan practices (Australia);**

110.55. **Create effective administrative and judicial mechanisms to remedy discriminatory acts against Roma and other minorities (India);**

110.56. **Strengthen measures on combating discrimination against women and Roma, as well as eliminate stereotypes of Roma and indigenous people through awareness-raising campaigns (Azerbaijan);**

110.57. **Strengthen its efforts to combat racist attacks committed by law enforcement personnel, particularly against the Roma, by among others, providing special training to law enforcement personnel aimed at promoting respect for human rights and tolerance for diversity (Austria);**

110.58. **Unequivocally and publicly condemn attacks against Roma and other minorities whenever they occur and effectively investigate all reported cases of harassment of members of the Roma by the police forces (Austria);**

110.59. **Increase its efforts to combat racist attacks committed by law enforcement personnel, particularly against the Roma (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

110.60. **Do all the necessary to prevent and effectively and thoroughly investigate all violent attacks against the Roma, including those committed by the police forces (Slovenia);**

110.61. **Enhance its efforts to curb hate speech in the media while investigating and appropriately sanctioning the perpetrators for such hate speeches (Bangladesh);**

110.62. **Modify the criminal codes to clearly address hate speech and racial and religious incitement in the context of election campaigns (Egypt);**

110.63. **Investigate and prosecute allegations of all hate speech and political discourse against minorities (Malaysia);**

110.64. **Investigate and punish all instances of racist statements or of intolerance of ethnic minorities in speeches by politicians and public officials (Mexico);**

110.65. **Step up its efforts towards advancing the specific courses of action taken in its struggle against discrimination such as programmes to fight poverty and social exclusion, the Strategy for Roma Integration up to 2020 and the endorsement of the Committee for the Rights of LGBTI persons, and launch campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for diversity aimed at all segments of society (Brazil);**

110.66. **Adopt effective measures to combat extremism and prevent all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, including amending its legislation so as to forbid and prevent activities of extremist organizations (Belarus);**

110.67. **Increase the monitoring of extremist organizations that act in a discriminatory manner, take effective measures against them, and criminalize and prosecute the financing and participation in those organizations (Spain);**

110.68. **Ban in law and prevent activities of the extremist organizations (Uzbekistan);**

110.69. **Step up its efforts to clamp down on racism and acts of extremism in line with its concept of combating extremism for 2011–2014 (China);**

110.70. **Continue to support the rights of the LGBTI community through its human rights framework (Australia);**

110.71. **Consider adopting measures to prevent gender-based violence, including amending legislation to include such an offence (Thailand);**

110.72. **Take steps for the comprehensive prohibition of corporal punishment, including when exercising parental rights (Estonia);**

110.73. **That legislation on the ban of corporal punishment in the exercise of parental rights be approved (Portugal);**

110.74. **Reinforce preventive measures for combating trafficking in women and girls for purposes such as sexual exploitation (Sri Lanka);**

110.75. **Implement effectively the National Plan of Action on Combating Human Trafficking (Turkmenistan);**

110.76. **Provide adequate resources to fully implement its National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, paying particular attention to combating trafficking of children (Philippines);**

110.77. **Step up efforts in the area of combating trafficking in human beings, including measures on the protection, reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking (Belarus);**

110.78. **Pay special attention to the adoption of comprehensive measures to address the aggravating problem of trafficking in children. Consider the possibility of sending an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (Belarus);**

110.79 **Continue to strengthen its policy to prevent, combat and punish human trafficking, particularly by providing assistance to victims, regardless of their nationality (Cyprus);**

110.80. **Adopt measures to identify the root causes for the exploitation of children, including through prostitution and pornography, and implement adequate mechanisms for prevention and protection (Ecuador);**

110.81. **Continue to fight human trafficking in all its forms paying special attention to the situation of the victims (Romania);**

110.82. **Ensure that assistance is provided to all victims of human trafficking and that the authorities devise specific programmes aiming at the reintegration of victims of human trafficking into the labour market and education system (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

110.83. **Ensure close cooperation between the police and the NGOs which provide assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings (Slovenia);**

110.84. **Improve identification of the victims of trafficking in human beings by setting up a coherent national mechanism of identification and referral of such cases (Republic of Moldova);**

110.85. **Ensure that child victims of offences under OP-CRC-SC are provided with assistance, including social reintegration and physical and psychological recovery (Republic of Moldova);**

110.86. **That the Government of Slovakia work to raise awareness amongst vulnerable communities of the dangers of human exploitation and to ensure these communities receive adequate support (United Kingdom);**

110.87. **Ensure full independence of the judiciary system (Turkmenistan);**

110.88. **That necessary reforms to ensure proper functioning and legitimacy of the judiciary are undertaken, in a transparent and inclusive process with all stakeholders including the civil society (Norway);**

110.89. **Take effective measures to ensure full independence of the Judicial Council, and the independence of the judiciary (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

110.90. **Take measures to strengthen the full independence of its legal system and shorten the time it takes for cases to go through the courts in order to boost the population's confidence in the legal system (France);**

110.91. **Fully implement the European Commission's 2013 recommendations related to the reform of public administration and the efficiency of the judicial system (United States);**

110.92. **Investigate and prosecute all perpetrators of violence and hate crimes against Roma (Azerbaijan);**

110.93. **Ensure appropriate investigation of all acts of violence committed for racial motives and punish those responsible for them (Uzbekistan);**

110.94. **Take all necessary measures to prevent illegal treatment by law enforcement bodies, ensure impartial investigation of all reports of torture and ill-treatment in order to bring the offenders to justice (Uzbekistan);**

110.95. **Investigate and prosecute all perpetrators of violence and hate crimes against Roma and amend the Criminal Code so as to introduce and adopt**

stronger punishments for racially motivated crimes committed by police officers (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

110.96. **Conduct immediate and impartial investigation of all reports on torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, bring those found guilty to justice and provide compensation to victims (Belarus);**

110.97. **Make sure that all victims of discrimination have access to effective remedies and the means to obtain them (Belgium);**

110.98. **Ensure effective legal protection for victims of discrimination (Pakistan);**

110.99. **Consider establishing an independent body with the right to undertake unannounced visits to all places of deprivation of liberty, including police stations and pretrial detention facilities, with a view to an early ratification of OP-CAT(Czech Republic);**

110.100. **Continue to take all necessary steps to combat corruption, ensure judicial independence and promote a fair and transparent legal system for all Slovak citizens (Australia);**

110.101. **Sustain and promote the family, based on the stable relationship between a man and a woman, as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Holy See);**

110.102. **Continue to strengthen efforts to eliminate discrimination in employment and occupation faced particularly by women and Roma persons, pursuant to the recommendations of ILO supervisory bodies (United States);**

110.103. **Implement measures that guarantee the right to work to its citizens, in particular to youth under the age of 25 and women (Cuba);**

110.104. **Bridge the wage gap between men and women (Libya);**

110 105. **Better ensure the effective enforcement of laws against sexual harassment and adopt additional preventive and protective measures to combat sexual violence in the workplace (Netherlands);**

110.106. **Take measures to guarantee access to safe drinking water for all its population (Chile);**

110.107. **Increase inputs to help to improve the living standards of people living in poverty and create more job opportunities for women, youth and other special groups (China);**

110.108. **Adopt a comprehensive programme on sexual health and reproductive rights based on human rights and WHO standards and allocate sufficient financial and human resources for their implementation (Belgium);**

110.109. **Increase access to contraceptive methods for all women as required by CESCR (Belgium);**

110.110. **Continue to safeguard the choice of health-care workers to have recourse to the principle of conscientious objection (Holy See);**

110.111. **Maintain the protection of the right to life from conception to natural death following article 15 of the Slovak constitution that states: "Human life is worthy of protection even prior to birth" (Holy See);**

110.112. **Ensure women's access to quality sexual education as well as to condoms and other means necessary for the practice of an informed and responsible sexual health (Mexico);**

110.113. **Adopt a comprehensive programme on sexual and reproductive health and rights, based on international human rights and WHO standards, and involve non-governmental organizations working on women's rights and on reproductive rights in the preparation and implementation of this programme (Netherlands);**

110.114. **Continue pursuing appropriate and efficient policies aimed at further improving access to education for socially disadvantaged children and consider, if necessary, the adoption of additional measures (Czech Republic);**

110.115. **Continue efforts to develop the capacities of the institutions that deal with disabled persons (Oman);**

110.116. **Improve legislation in the area of the protection of the rights of the national minorities (Russian Federation);**

110.117. **Continue improving the protection of national minorities in Slovakia, such as through institutional and legislative developments (Montenegro);**

110.118. **Support the preservation and development of the cultures of national minorities (Sri Lanka);**

110.119. **Adopt positive policies to include representatives of minorities at various levels in national and local government (Uruguay);**

110.120. **In line with the suggestions of the Council of Europe, improve efforts to provide adequate opportunities for children belonging to minorities to learn their mother tongue and to study in their mother tongue in schools (Hungary);**

110.121. **Fully implement its National Roma Integration Strategy to combat socioeconomic marginalization and discrimination and continue to condemn all acts of violence against Roma persons (United States); continue to implement the Strategy for Roma Integration up to 2020 (Angola); reinforce the provisions of the Strategy for the Integration of Roma (Chile); take all necessary measures to implement the National Roma Integration Strategy. This includes the provision of financial means regarding the efficient implementation of this Strategy (Austria);**

110.122. **Strengthen its obligations under the Strategy for Roma Integration with a view to effectively combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other interrelated forms of intolerance (Cuba);**

110.123. **Continue with activities towards implementing the revised National Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion for 2011–2015 and the adopted Strategy for the Integration of Roma up to 2020 (Montenegro);**

110.124. **Assess the implementation of the Strategy for Roma Integration up to 2020 annually and keep Roma NGOs, including women's and children's organizations, actively involved in the implementation and assessment of the strategy (Finland);**

110.125. **Promote a more effective policy aimed at integrating Roma on issues related to education, employment, housing and health, that will produce positive results (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

110.126. **Focus on education as the most important part of a long term sustainable solution for the Roma population and have patience and perseverance with this work. Roma children must be given the same opportunities and not put in schools aimed at mentally challenged students (Sweden);**

110.127. **Strengthen efforts to include Roma children in mainstream education (Sri Lanka);**

110.128. **Introduce a clear duty on all schools to desegregate education and end discrimination against Romani children (Israel);**

110.129. **That further steps are taken in order to review existing policies and practices that lead to segregation of Roma children in schools (Portugal); adopt a concrete plan and measures leading to the abolition of segregated settings and achievement of better education outcomes for children from Romani communities (Austria);**

110.130. **Take measures that ensure that children of ethnic minorities can remain within the school system. In this regard, it is suggested that these measures are implemented at the level of local governments with an important number of Roma or Hungarian population residing there and that adequate follow-up of the progress is carried out in this regard (Uruguay);**

110.131. **Adopt and implement a sound legal framework and appropriate policies to address the issue of discriminatory practices against Roma in the education system, utilizing the definition of segregation provided by the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and of the regional court in Prešov, including measures to ensure that the court's definition of ethnic segregation in education is disseminated and promoted to the relevant stakeholders (Ireland);**

110.132. **Further increase its efforts to end the segregation of Roma children in schools by tasking an appropriate authority with the clear responsibility of identifying segregation and giving schools binding guidelines to end segregating practices (Finland);**

110.133. **Establish a task force of relevant ministries and civil society organizations to develop a plan to desegregate Roma education and to ensure the necessary resources are available to begin implementation (Canada);**

110.134. **That appropriate steps are taken to ensure inclusive education in Slovak schools and to desegregate students that have been placed in special classes or special schools on other grounds than mental disability (Norway);**

110.135. **Intensify efforts to increase the rate of registration and participation in the educational system of Roma children (Albania);**

110.136. **Adopt a national strategy and plan of action to ensure access to adequate and acceptable education for Roma children (Uzbekistan);**

110.137. **Pay particular attention to the provision of adequate basic services to the Roma population, such as drinking water, sanitation, electricity and systems of sewage and waste disposal (Spain);**

110.138. **Ensure that housing policies are motivated by the integration of Roma and other marginalized and vulnerable groups and that they avoid all forms of exclusion or forced segregation (Mexico);**

110.139. **Put an end to forced evictions and demolition of Roma settlements without previous notice and, if such cases take place, offer alternative housing solutions (Spain);**

110.140. **Make sure to strike a balance between the need to give Roma a chance to own their own land and the risk of cemented segregation that might bring. Giving the Roma the chance to buy out the now, sometimes illegal, lands of settlements would create better possibilities also to claim the need for sanitation and municipal services (Sweden);**

110.141. **Stop the land segregation that has fomented the building of walls and barriers in areas such as Prešov, Michalovce, Partizanske or Trebišov (Spain);**

110.142. **Take steps to facilitate access to education, health and housing for the Roma community (India);**

110.143. **Take further measures for the sustainable development of the Roma community with a focus on their integration into mainstream society (India);**

110.144. **Step up its efforts in order to improve the participation of the Roma minority in parliament, having in view the fact that one Roma candidate was elected in the parliamentary elections in 2012[1] (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

110.145. **Put in place mechanisms to identify at an early stage children among refugees and asylum seekers who might have been involved in armed conflict in order to ensure their protection, recovery and reintegration (Bulgaria);**

110.146. **Implement laws and policies that protect and promote the civil, political, social and economic rights of migrants, Roma people, refugees and asylum seekers, especially the rights to health, to education and to work (Holy See);**

111. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

[1] The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue was: "Step up its efforts in order to improve the participation of Roma minority in the Parliament having in view the fact that no Roma candidate was elected on the parliamentary elections in 2010" (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Slovakia was headed by Mr. Peter Javorčík, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and composed of the following members:

- Fedor Rosocha, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the UN in Geneva;
- Peter Klenovský, Director, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic;
- Michal Vančo, Cabinet of the State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic;
- Elena Szolgayová, Director General, Directorate for Housing Policy and Municipal Development, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic;
- Mario Mikloši, Director General, Directorate for Health Policy, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic;
- Vladimír Šimoňák, Director, Department of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic;
- Ján Hero, Director, Department for Concept and Planning, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities;
- Soňa Danová, Head of Division for National Minorities, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic;
- Branislav Kadlečík, Department of International Public Law, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic;
- Katarína Ondrášová, Division for schools with minority language as a language of instruction and for Roma communities, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic;
- Lukáš Berinec, Department for International and European Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic;
- Martin Kmošena, Counsellor, DPR, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the UN in Geneva;
- Silvia Čižmárová, Intern, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the UN in Geneva.

United Nations A/HRC/26/13

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 April 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-sixth session
Agenda item 6
Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Eritrea

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

GE.14-13129

1413129

Please recycle

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
	Introduction	1–4	3
I.	Summary of the proceedings of the review process	5–121	3
	A. Presentation by the State under review	5–34	3
	B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review	35–121	6
II.	Conclusions and/or recommendations	122–123	13
Annex			
	Composition of the delegation		27

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its eighteenth session from 27 January to 7 February 2014. The review of Eritrea was held at the 12th meeting on 3 February 2014. The delegation of Eritrea was headed by Tesfamichael Gerahtu. At its 17th meeting held on 6 February 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Eritrea.

2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Eritrea: Austria, Indonesia and Sierra Leone.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Eritrea:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/18/ERI/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/18/ERI/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/18/ERI/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Eritrea through the troika. Those questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Eritrea thanked the States that had sent advance questions and concerns as well as expressions of support and stated that Eritrea valued all constructive engagements on the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

6. The delegation stated that the contents of the UPR report focused mainly on the implementation of the accepted recommendations and related issues. It had been prepared through a process of broad participation and high responsibility. A steering committee composed of representatives from all relevant line ministries and chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been established and civil society organizations were represented in the committee. The United Nations country team in Eritrea also provided input.

7. Higher level consultations had been carried out, including with law enforcement agencies, members of the judiciary, regional administration and civic organizations, on the draft laws, which were now ready for proclamation. Furthermore, new laws on access to water, food security, privatization of State-owned enterprises and access to justice, as well as the accountability of judicial services and the expansion and extended jurisdiction of community magistrate courts had been introduced.

8. The the Constitution was the source of all legislative measures and the basis of economic, social, cultural and political policies and actions. While local and regional

elections had been held, national election remained pending until the threats to national security and sovereignty had been eliminated. The delegation acknowledged that more effort was needed to establish some institutions provided for in the Constitution. Despite challenges and problems, efforts to strengthen the legal system and the rule of law had gained significant momentum in the past four years.

9. National development efforts focused on the consolidation of all aspects of social justice to ensure that every citizen had the ability to lead a life of dignity with development in a society that reflected the common values and aspirations. Equal rights and opportunities had become the hallmarks of the Government's strategic interventions to ensure equitable distribution of basic services and the expansion of even development in all regions and localities.

10. The delegation stated that microcredit schemes for rural farmers, women cooperative farms, disadvantaged women, disabled citizens and other needy sections of the community had expanded significantly. The major Government institutions, the Eritrean Development Bank and other stakeholders had thus increased the level of investment and the degree of support to these disadvantaged groups.

11. The privatization of Government-owned entities and enterprises and the establishment of a privatization agency under the Proclamation issued in 2013 was expected to widen the opportunities for all citizens to benefit from the wealth of the nation at various levels.

12. Programmes to assist all the disadvantaged social groups had been expanded by the Government in collaboration with stakeholders and Eritreans inside and outside of the country.

13. The delegation provided information on the steps taken towards cultural transformations as well as to explore the cultural heritage of all the ethnic groups in conformity with the ideals of national unity and national development.

14. The delegation stated that Eritrea had redoubled its efforts to improve the life style and conditions of living of its entire population. The strategy targeting poverty elimination and transforming living standards was an ongoing effort.

15. The demographic distribution of services by the Government had shown remarkable progress in terms of access, coverage and viability. In the previously disadvantaged areas, as well as rural sections and periphery parts of the country, there had been continuing growth on all social indicators in the past four years.

16. Eritrea was on course to achieving three Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (Goal 4 on reducing child mortality, Goal 5 on improving maternal health and Goal 6 on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases). It was also on track with four other goals.

17. With regard to human dignity, the Eritrean Correctional and Rehabilitation Services (ECRS) had a major undertaking of rehabilitating and reintegrating convicted prisoners into society upon release.

18. The delegation stated that torture was criminalized in the domestic legal system and thus close monitoring had been an established practice in the past four years. Moreover, evidence collected through these means remained inadmissible in courts of law.

19. The Government had also continued its strict policy of zero tolerance for all forms of sexual violence. Awareness campaigns had been stepped up by all concerned agencies and the police had conducted public forums and campaigns in high schools.

20. The delegation stated that any contract of marriage between persons below 18 years of age was null and void. Spouses and witnesses to such marriage faced punishment under the Penal Code.

21. The Government had outlawed the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) and cutting and that an extensive campaign was ongoing. Reported cases submitted to the courts had been penalized. However, challenges still remained in addressing that problem, including reaching nomadic populations and bringing about behavioural changes through knowledge and awareness.

22. The rights of the child were at the centre of Government policies and strategies. Efforts had been made to strengthen the family unit, provide a better environment for the growth and development of children and empower communities to coordinate and promote good child care and appropriate socialization practices. The community-based orphan reintegration programme had also been successfully expanded..

23. The delegation stated that there were no cases of child labour in Eritrea. Children were not recruited for labour, but there was a culture, tradition and practice of children participating in family activities and work. Raising the monitoring capacity and awareness of all concerned were major challenges.

24. The Government had established a probation service to provide counselling and to integrate children who had been in conflict with the law into schools and neighbourhoods after their release.

25. The political and social roles of women in political activities, the elected assemblies, administration at local and regional levels and in other government positions had improved in the past four years.

26. The delegation provided information on the efforts made to bridge the gender gap in education and enhance the quality of girls' education in the school system. With regard to combating adult illiteracy, data from the 2011/2012 academic year showed that 52,747 adults had participated in adult literacy programs, with women constituting 95 per cent of the participants. Similarly, the number of vocational training programmes for women had also been significant and during that academic year, 38 per cent of the 4,640 students enrolled were women.

27. The delegation stated that Eritrea continued to encourage the voluntary repatriation of persons who might have left the country illegally and in violation of the immigration laws, and that several rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for people returning on their own volition had been created. The Government was working to establish a mechanism to facilitate access to relevant international bodies, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in accordance with recommendation 107 from the first UPR cycle.

28. The delegation provided information on the reorganization and restructuring of its structures, starting from the local level, in accordance with the motto, "political dynamism, effective management and organization". The Government was focusing on activating the involvement of communities in managing their own affairs, with emphasis on local empowerment through greater devolution of authority to local governance and regional administrations.

29. The delegation stated that the political landscape respected fundamental freedoms, namely freedom of expression, association and religion. No one had been detained for expressing his or her views or ideas, including for criticizing government policies and actions; there had never been any restriction on accessing the Internet and religious harmony, mutual respect, mutual understanding of the religions continued to flourish.

30. The delegation stated that Eritrea had submitted reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the eight fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Government had responded to many questionnaires and letters from those monitoring bodies and had also responded positively to communications transmitted under the complaint procedure of the Human Rights Council, as well as directly to the Council during its twentieth and twenty-first sessions. Eritrea had attended all the regular sessions of the Council since the nineteenth session with the objective of working closely with the Council.

31. The delegation stated that Eritrea had been wrongly targeted with politically motivated resolutions of the Council that denigrated the ongoing efforts of the Government in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Eritrea considered that country-specific resolutions did not serve the advancement of human rights and constituted a double standard and a deviation from the UPR process, which was a forum for constructive engagement.

32. The imposition of unjustified sanctions had negatively impacted the full enjoyment of human rights. Eritrea had been subjected to a litany of accusations of gross violations of human rights, while the facts on the ground illustrated that those accusations were invalid and were mainly motivated by sinister political agendas.

33. The sanctions imposed on Eritrea by the United Nations and the continued occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories entailed the prolongation of national service and other onerous burdens on the country and its people, which also deserved consideration. Unnecessary expenditure for defence as well as undesirable delays in some aspects of the political process were byproducts of that reality and it was in that respect that the continued occupation of its sovereign territories violated the right of the Eritrean people to live in peace. In that regard, the delegation called on the Council to give due regard in its agenda to the right of the Eritrean people to live in peace.

34. The delegation provided information on some of Eritrea's best practices in the advancement of human rights, which included the community-based approach to addressing social problems, the approach to orphans and other vulnerable children with disabilities, provision of free education up to the tertiary level, charging of a nominal fee for health services up to referral treatment and the institution of the Injury Surveillance System. The country also observed United Nations recognized international days as occasions to promote public awareness on critical issues.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

35. During the interactive dialogue, 70 delegations made statements. The recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

36. Armenia noted the efforts to improve socioeconomic conditions, especially the national policy on food security. Noting the provision of free compulsory basic education and efforts to improve school enrolment, it expressed concern that the final year of schooling was undertaken in military training camps.

37. Australia was disappointed that no special procedures mandate holder had been permitted to visit Eritrea, and that the country's Constitution had still not been implemented. It was concerned about reports of torture, harsh prison conditions, incommunicado detention and compulsory military service.

38. Austria commended Eritrea for inviting OHCHR to visit the country. It expressed concern about the lack of due judicial process, questionable detentions and poor detention

conditions, and remarked that indefinite military conscription constituted forced labour and deepened poverty, while the lack of free press curtailed freedom of expression.

39. Belgium noted progress in combating FGM, but expressed concern about the deterioration of the human rights situation in several areas. It noted the use of children in armed conflicts.

40. Bhutan noted, inter alia, the provision of free education, vocational skills training for school dropouts and economic empowerment programmes for women, among other achievements. It commended Eritrea's progress towards attaining the MDGs on health, gender equality, poverty, hunger and primary education.

41. Botswana, acknowledging the progress made in health, education and gender equality and noted the reports of disappearances, torture, detentions without trial, judicial interference and restrictions on the freedoms of movement, expression and public participation. It encouraged Eritrea to strengthen the rule of law and civil and political rights.

42. Brazil encouraged further efforts to enhance women's rights. It expressed concern that Eritrea had not ratified the core human rights treaties and that freedom of expression and religion remained limited. Brazil asked how the international community could support the implementation of recommendations.

43. Canada asked Eritrea about steps taken to repeal criminalization of consensual homosexual activity. It expressed concern about poor prison conditions, torture and secret detention centres and urged Eritrea to fulfil its obligations and allow monitors and special procedures mandate holders to visit Eritrea.

44. Chad noted that significant consultations with all relevant stakeholders had been held in view of the preparation of the national report. It acknowledged that Eritrea was party to some of the principal international human rights instruments.

45. Chile welcomed the adoption of Proclamation 158/2007 prohibiting FGM and the related awareness-raising campaigns. It was concern at forced disappearances. It noted the progress towards attaining the health-related MDGs.

46. China acknowledged the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights — which improved food security —, integrated rural development, infrastructure strengthening, health and education and gender equality. It called on the international community to provide assistance to meet the challenges.

47. Colombia acknowledged efforts to implement recommendations from the first UPR cycle and particularly highlighted the progress made in respecting women's rights and access to health care and education. It proposed to share its experience in designing and implementing mechanisms to monitor implementation of the recommendations.

48. Croatia noted efforts to educate girls and attain the MDGs related to gender equality. It welcomed efforts to eradicate FGM, but was concerned that the incidence of FGM remained high. It expressed concern about non-recognition of conscientious objection to military service and the impact of indefinite military service on children and society.

49. Cuba noted efforts to improve social, economic and cultural rights, particularly the rights to food, health and education, and emphasized the positive reforms in basic education, prohibition of child labour and re-education of minors in conflict with the law. It acknowledged the integration of women in Government.

50. Estonia urged Eritrea to implement all recommendations made and to cooperate with the special procedures mandate holders, increase efforts and funding to improve women's

rights, eliminate FGM and forced marriage and ensure freedom of expression, association and assembly.

51. Denmark expressed concern that very little progress had been made in implementing recommendations accepted during the first UPR cycle, particularly those concerning combating torture and other ill-treatment. It noted that Eritrea had not ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).

52. Djibouti noted the lack of efforts to implement recommendations from the first UPR cycle. It expressed concern about the fate of prisoners secretly detained during the 2008 border conflict with Djibouti, and the lack of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea.

53. Ecuador acknowledged the legislative progress made, in particular towards replacing the transitional codes and the adoption of Proclamation 158/2007 to abolish FGM. It noted the work to relocate orphans, particularly children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS.

54. Egypt noted that the judiciary was in the final stage of drafting new codes to replace the transitional codes, and that Eritrea's international obligations had been taken into account in the new codes.

55. The Czech Republic remained concerned about the lack of progress on key human rights issues, including the numerous pending requests of the special procedures to visit the country.

56. France noted the contact made between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Eritrean authorities to discuss assistance to tackle human rights issues. It noted the efforts made to address social rights, particularly regarding health, but remained concern by the human rights situation.

57. Gabon noted progress and good practice in implementing recommendations made during the first UPR cycle, however, it agreed that many challenges remained. It encouraged Eritrea to ratify international human rights instruments and improve collaboration with OHCHR, special procedures and other mechanisms.

58. Switzerland remained concerned about extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, indefinite national service, arbitrary detention and restricted freedoms. It expressed the wish for civil society to play a greater role. Noting the promotion of education, it invited Eritrea to improve civil and political rights.

59. Ghana urged Eritrea to complete the ratification and implementation of CAT, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ILO Convention No. 182 on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW).

60. Indonesia noted Eritrea's efforts to promote and protect human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, such as the 2010 Water Proclamation and the 2012 proclamations to enhance access to justice and the right to basic education.

61. The Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledged the challenges faced by the Government with regard to achievement in most socioeconomic areas, such as education, health care, economic growth and social justice.

62. Ireland was concerned at Eritrea's failure to respond to the requests of special procedures mandate holders. It reiterated the call of the Human Rights Council in its resolution 23/21 for Eritrea to fully implement its 1997 Constitution. It noted continued practice of FGM.

63. Italy was concerned about reports of torture and indefinite conscription amounting to forced labour. It recognized efforts to boost trade and investment to alleviate poverty and improve living standards. It noted that some population groups were more vulnerable to discrimination.

64. Japan hoped that Eritrea would cooperate with the international community, including United Nations mechanisms. It expected Eritrea to end impunity, the use of torture, arbitrary and extrajudicial detentions and enforced disappearances. It hoped for further progress on the issues of FGM and sexual violence.

65. Kenya noted the ongoing commitment to providing subsidized health care and free education. It highlighted that some of the recommendations accepted by Eritrea during the previous UPR cycle had not been implemented, particularly those concerning torture and child labour.

66. Latvia recalled that during the first UPR cycle, it had recommended that Eritrea step up cooperation with the special procedures and noted that visit requests by special procedures had not yet been accepted.

67. Lithuania strongly encouraged Eritrea to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and other special procedures mandate holders. It was concerned at Eritrea's failure to implement previous recommendations and expressed concern about restrictions to freedom of assembly and expression and that rape and sexual violence during military service were widespread.

68. Luxembourg remained concerned at discrimination and violence against women and girls, particularly early marriage, FGM and sexual and domestic violence. It was deeply concerned that many young unaccompanied Eritreans were taking refuge in neighbouring countries following their parents' detention, exile or military service.

69. Malaysia noted ongoing efforts to improve the rights of women and children, particularly in the area of education. It noted that more efforts were needed to meet the MDG to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.

70. Mauritania noted the enactment of legislation to improve the situation of women and vulnerable groups. It urged the Government to step up its efforts to promote national reconciliation, social harmony and political stability.

71. Mexico was concerned about the high number of political prisoners, persons detained for desertion and the treatment and conditions of persons in Sawa military camp. It stressed the importance of allowing access to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), family visits and legal and medical assistance.

72. Montenegro asked what steps had been taken to end the compulsory practice of all children completing their final year of schooling in a military camp; about the delay in implementing the recommendations to ratify treaties such as CAT and the Optional Protocol thereto (OP-CAT), the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Politial Rights, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) and CPRD; and what steps had been taken to implement the Constitution without delay and to hold free and transparent elections.

73. Namibia noted the efforts made to finalize the new criminal code and other codes and Eritrea's proclamations on water and on enhancing access to and better delivery of justice.

74. The Netherlands remained concerned about severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association and religion, prolonged military service, arbitrary detention, torture, prisoner maltreatment, extrajudicial killings and secret prisons. It urged Eritrea to allow ICRC unrestricted access to prison facilities.

75. Nigeria urged Eritrea to expedite implementation of the recommendations from the previous UPR cycle, incorporate international human rights conventions into domestic legislation, ensure press freedom, improve health institutions and access to health services and prioritize education. It invited Eritrea to ratify CPED.

76. Norway expressed concern at the excessive militarization of Eritrean society and its reported effect on people's daily lives and the lack of freedom of expression. It noted that the rule of law and fundamental freedoms were still not respected in Eritrea.

77. Paraguay noted challenges but recognized efforts to improve access to water and sanitation, food, health care and education. It expressed concern about reports of serious violations of human rights, particularly arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and inhumane conditions of detention.

78. The Philippines noted efforts to implement the recommendations from the first UPR, attain the MDGs, improve the situation of women and children and address gender inequality and FGM.

79. Portugal welcomed efforts to assist street children. It was concerned that all children were required to complete their final year of schooling in a military training camp, involving the conscription of children into the military.

80. The Republic of Korea noted efforts to implement the recommendations from the first UPR, progress towards attaining the health-related MDGs and advancing women in parliamentary and government positions. It remained seriously concerned about the human rights situation.

81. Romania hoped that the Eritrean authorities would take the necessary steps to ensure the exercise of human rights by all Eritrean citizens. It was concerned about reports of the many challenges remaining since the last UPR.

82. The Russian Federation noted progress made in promoting and protecting human rights since the first UPR, but acknowledged remaining problems.

83. Saudi Arabia noted efforts thus far, despite a lack of resources, and highlighted the 2010 Water Proclamation and the 2012 Proclamation to enhance access to justice. It encouraged further efforts to promote and protect human rights at all levels.

84. Singapore noted the results obtained in combating HIV/AIDS and malaria and reducing the child mortality rate. It acknowledged the promotion of gender equality, increased government funding for women to set up their own businesses and available vocational training.

85. In response to the advance questions as well as questions and comments from the floor, the delegation of Eritrea emphasized that no person had been detained for peacefully expressing his or her views and that media censorship was not practiced. Also, no journalist had been detained for performing his or her duty under the professional ethics of journalism.

86. Freedom of association was guaranteed under the Constitution and other laws, and various associations were working without any restrictions and with full freedom. Labour unions existed and the autonomy of trade unions was guaranteed under Labour Proclamation No. 118/2001. Eritrea had signed and ratified seven ILO conventions and it was duly submitting its reports in that regard.

87. The Government issued the 1995 Proclamation on religions and the 2002 registration decree, requiring all religious organizations to register and declare their property. Some groups which refused to adhere to the law alleged that they have been persecuted.

88. Following the criminalization of FGM, an intensive anti-FGM campaign had been conducted and yielded good results. Underage marriage was also criminalized. The Government followed a strict policy of zero tolerance to sexual violence.

89. The delegation stated that consensual same-sex sexual conduct was against the values and culture of Eritrean society.

90. The delegation stated that there was no arbitrary detention in Eritrea. National Service was not limited to military service and encompassed reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war-damaged country. The law strictly prohibited child soldiers and only persons 18 years of age and older did national service.

91. Trafficking in persons was a criminal act and Eritrea was cooperating with all concerned countries and agencies in that regard.

92. All the provisions enshrined in the Constitution, with the exception of those dealing with national election — for the obvious reason of the "no-war-no-peace situation"—, were strictly implemented and adhered to.

93. The so-called "G15", who were high government officials, had been detained for treason and subversive acts committed at the time of war, when the very existence of the country was under threat. By those acts, they had abdicated their membership. The Eritrean National Assembly, at its 14th session, had discussed their cases and mandated the Government to handle the matter appropriately.

94. The delegation stated that the death penalty could serve as deterrent factor and had been used in very exceptional and limited cases.

95. The dossiers for ratification of CAT, CRPD, ICRMW and ILO Convention No. 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour have been internally processed and were ready for approval and endorsement. Normally the process took some time to be reviewed by all the government institutions concerned and examined by the Ministry of Justice for harmonization with the other national laws.

96. The delegation stated that Eritrea endeavoured to submit its regular reports under the conventions and treaties that it had signed, and would consider requests for visits by Special Rapporteurs on a case-by-case basis, however, country-specific special procedures mandate holder did not promote human rights, but rather negated neutrality and objectivity. The appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Eritrea was politically motivated and intended to undermine the UPR mechanisms.

97. Slovakia noted that further efforts were needed to address challenges to the freedoms of movement and expression. It called on Eritrea to cooperate fully with special procedures mandate holders and OHCHR to improve the human rights situation in the country.

98. Slovenia commended efforts to achieve the MDGs and noted the decrease in cases of FGM. It expressed concern at reports of rape and sexual harassment in military and educational training camps or during interrogation, domestic violence and harsh conditions in detention facilities.

99. Somalia called upon the country to promote its rich ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity and to work towards a lasting peace among all the people in the Horn of Africa.

100. South Sudan acknowledged progress in the field of education at all levels, particularly in school enrolment of girls. It noted that, despite progress made in combating FGM, it remained prevalent, and encouraged the Government to make further efforts.

101. Spain was concerned at the human rights situation in Eritrea and at the lack of implementation of many of the recommendations from the previous UPR. It noted progress with regard to the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and in the area of child protection, but considered that there remained many shortcomings.

102. Sudan noted efforts to improve the rights of women, persons with disabilities and children, particularly the provision of assistance to orphan children and juveniles. It called upon the relevant bodies to provide the technical cooperation requested to improve human rights.

103. Sweden acknowledged progress on certain health-related MDGs, but noted that recommendations to improve political and civil rights had not been addressed. It was concerned about violations of freedom of speech and the press and that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea had not been granted access to the country.

104. Germany deplored the lack of progress in the human rights situation since the first UPR cycle and noted that none of the accepted recommendations it had made had been implemented. It expressed deep concern at the continued forced labour of conscripts.

105. Thailand noted that challenges remained to the promotion of women's rights, including protection from domestic violence and FGM. It noted the commitment to establish a standing committee to receive complaints of human rights violations and encouraged Eritrea to consider areas of cooperation with OHCHR.

106. Togo noted some progress in implementing the recommendations from the previous UPR, the adoption of programmes to provide assistance to orphans and street children, the provision of free compulsory education and the focus on education for girls.

107. Tunisia reaffirmed its support for the Eritrean people, the creation of a democratic State and respect of human rights. It noted the adoption of legislation to strengthen the judicial system, protect children's rights and ensure gender equality.

108. Turkey considered that Eritrea's invitation to the OHCHR should pave the way for further cooperation through technical support. It noted the emphasis on education for women and girls and the policy to eradicate FGM, as part of its efforts to achieve gender equality.

109. Uganda noted the programme for the economic empowerment of women, the Integrated Rural Development Schemes, the Nomadic Education Policy Framework, the establishment of vocational training schools, the provision of adult and lifelong education and the prohibition of FGM.

110. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Eritrea to cooperate with the United Nations and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. Regretting the lack of progress in the area of human rights, it hoped that concrete improvements would be forthcoming. Eritrea should fully implement its Constitution.

111. The United States of America urged Eritrea to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms and to invite the Special Rapporteur. It expressed concern that the Government did not prioritize civil and political rights and had not accounted for the disappearance of political prisoners. It noted the lack of democracy.

112. Uruguay encouraged Eritrea to redouble its efforts to implement all the recommendations, strengthen cooperation with the United Nations and strengthen efforts to incorporate international obligations into its new legislation. It recognized progress in the fight against FGM.

113. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) noted the development of social investment programmes for more equal wealth distribution, which had improved health, food security and access to water and sanitation. It noted progress in basic and compulsory education.

114. Yemen noted suitable changes to the jurisdiction of the courts, the revision of procedures and legislation to ensure social justice, access to food security, health services, education and infrastructure, and other amendments to domestic legislation.

115. Afghanistan noted progress in the protection of children's rights through the provision of free basic education and the prohibition of the engagement of minors in any occupation that endangered their physical and mental development, as well as measures for health protection.

116. Algeria considered that the ratification of certain international instruments would positively contribute to the human rights situation. It noted that efforts were needed to combat poverty and prevent violence, including FGM, and discrimination against women. Technical assistance would be required for Eritrea to fulfil its human rights obligations.

117. Argentina shared the concerns relating to the political, security, humanitarian and human rights situation in Eritrea, which were expressed in the latest resolution of the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Eritrea.

118. The delegation of Eritrea stated that the recommendation relating to the 2-per cent tax and the destabilization of the Horn of Africa was out of context. Eritrea is an active member that tries to promote peace and stability. It considered that the issue lacked a human-rights dimension and was abusive. In that connection, the delegation called upon the President of the Human Rights Council to strike the recommendation from the record.

119. Eritrea was committed to working with the Council on the advancement of human rights under the UPR mechanism. The delegation stated that the country-specific resolution on Eritrea was unjustified as it was initiated for political reasons to attain political objectives. In its view, that kind of approach undermined the UPR process.

120. Eritreans had fought long and hard and paid enormous sacrifices for their self-determination. It was therefore fit and proper that the country's priority should be ensuring peace and security, accelerating the development agenda and preserving the life and dignity of its people. The delegation called upon the Council to exercise its moral authority in lifting the sanctions and ending the occupation. Those were challenges that could not be taken lightly as they continued to impede the country's efforts in the fulfilment of its human rights obligations.

121. The President of the Human Rights Council brought to the attention of the delegations the rules and procedures for the preparation of the reports of the Working Group, according to which those reports must be factual and must reflect the interventions made by the State under review and the delegations taking the floor.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

122. **The following recommendations will be examined by Eritrea, which will respond in due course, but no later than the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council in June 2014. The responses will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Council at its twenty-sixth session:**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

122.1. **Ratify the international human rights instruments which it is not yet a party to (Chad);**

122.2. **Consider the possibility of acceding to all the international human rights treaties and conventions to which it is not yet party (Russian Federation);**

122.3. **Sign and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocols to ICCPR (Lithuania);**

122.4. **Consider accession to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

122.5. **Ratify the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and fully implement its provisions (Australia);**

122.6. **Complete as soon as possible the process of accession to Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**

122.7. **Ratify Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Latvia);**

122.8. **Ratify, without further delay, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Slovakia);**

122.9. **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Paraguay);**

122.10. **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Estonia);**

122.11. **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment without delay (Denmark);**

122.12. **Swiftly ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as well as the Optional Protocol thereto (Czech Republic);**

122.13. **Ratify CAT without undue delay (Austria);**

122.14. **Take all necessary steps to fully implement the principles of CAT without further delay and accelerate the procedures to ratify it (Italy);**

122.15. **Take the necessary steps to become a party to all major human rights instruments, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Brazil);**

122.16. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and take steps to fully align the national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, including by adopting provisions aimed at thorough and expeditious cooperation with the ICC (Croatia);**

122.17. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

122.18. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, including incorporating the definition of crimes and general principles of the Statute, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court (Latvia);**

122.19. **Ratification of the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court (Romania);**

122.20. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it fully at the national level and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Slovakia);**

122.21. **Withdraw existing reservations to ICCPR and ratify both ICCPR Optional Protocols (Estonia);**

122.22. **Comply, in law and in practice, with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Czech Republic);**

122.23. **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ecuador);**

122.24. **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment (Gabon);**

122.25. **Smooth acceptance of visit requests by special procedures mandate holders and swift accession to core international human rights instruments such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);**

122.26. **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Netherlands);**

122.27. **Sign and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the First and Second Optional Protocols to ICCPR, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and ultimately the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Portugal);**

122.28. **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);**

122.29. **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Rome Statute (Tunisia);**

122.30. **Implement fully the 1997 Constitution and the rights that it enshrines, including allowing independent political parties and non-government organizations to function freely (Australia);**

122.31. **Apply all the provisions of the Constitution relevant to human rights and the rule of law (Tunisia);**

122.32. **Step up efforts for a rapid and definitive application of the country's Constitution, ensuring that it incorporates the principles and commitments arising from international human rights instruments to which Eritrea is signatory or has acceded (Uruguay);**

122.33. **Fully implement the Constitution to ensure the administration of justice and the rule of law and also establish an independent human rights institution to oversee human rights issues (Republic of Korea);**

122.34. **Expeditiously and fully implement the Constitution adopted in 1997 and strive for the earliest adoption of a penal code, a criminal procedure code as well as a civil code and a civil procedure code, in accordance with international standards, and provide clearly in new legislation for freedom of expression, assembly, movement, religion and belief (Slovakia);**

122.35. **Expeditiously and fully implement the 1997 Constitution and the rights that it enshrines in order to end the 23 years of the one-party-State-led transitional period and seek technical assistance from regional bodies and the international community (Somalia);**

122.36. **Take measures to fully implement the Constitution of 1997 and ensure the rule of law (Sweden);**

122.37. **The Government of Eritrea, which is currently operating on pre-Constitutional transitional powers, should heed the call of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to fully implement the Constitution without delay, and subsequently hold elections, thereby ensuring further governance in accordance with international principles to the rule of law (Namibia);**

122.38. **Immediately lift the state of emergency, implement the 1997 Constitution and hold free and fair elections with international monitoring (Germany);**

122.39. **Reform the electoral system and organize periodic and genuine multi-party elections, in accordance with international democratic standards (Czech Republic);**

122.40. **Take the necessary measures to fully implement the 1997 Constitution and thus allow, among others, the existence and independence of political parties and other organs of civil society (Switzerland);**

122.41. **Take urgent steps to promulgate and implement its national Constitution guaranteeing universally accepted recognized fundamental human rights for all citizens and the rest of its population (Ghana);**

122.42. **Continue efforts in strengthening democratic institutions, including through capacity-building in the State legislative, executive as well as judiciary system (Indonesia);**

122.43. **Enhance and implement domestic laws to further promote and protect the civil and political rights of the Eritrean people (Philippines);**

122.44. **Reform legislation in the area of the right to freedom of conscience and religion (Russian Federation);**

122.45. **Establish an independent human rights institution (Ghana);**

122.46. **Strengthen its institutional framework, including by establishing a national human rights institution according to the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

122.47. **Establish an independent mechanism for human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (South Sudan);**

122.48. **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Algeria);**

122.49. **Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles (Tunisia);**

122.50. **Put in place mechanisms to follow up on the recommendations of the UPR, which promote equality of rights and non-discrimination of all citizens, in particular vulnerable groups (Colombia);**

122.51. **Implement the recommendations of the previous UPR, in particular ratification of the Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment or Treatment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Rome Statute (France);**

122.52. **Expedite the implementation of the accepted recommendations from the first UPR cycle, including the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Kenya);**

122.53. **Fully implement Security Council resolution 2023 of 2011, which condemns Eritrea's use of the "diaspora tax" to destabilize the Horn of Africa region and violate the sanctions regime (Somalia);**

122.54. **Make operational a standing committee to receive complaints and petitions as well as redress cases of human rights violations, including by appointing independent members of the standing committee created to address human rights violation and providing adequate resources, to hold those violators accountable (Thailand);**

122.55. **End indefinite national service and begin a phased demobilization for those serving for more than the statutory 18 months, and allow substitute service for conscientious objectors (Norway);**

122.56. **Abolish military conscription and compulsory military training, particularly for children (Australia);**

122.57. **End conscription of persons for indefinite periods into national service and cease forced participation of persons in the citizen militia and other national projects (United States of America);**

122.58. **Prohibit the participation of minors in military service and accept the practice of conscientious objection (Spain);**

122.59. **Modify the regulation on conscription and organize it in a way consistent with the respect for human rights (Italy);**

122.60. **Establish provisions for conscientious objections to military service and bring an end to indefinite, involuntary conscription or national service — a severe form of forced labour —, in particular of children (Germany);**

122.61. **End the practice of indefinite national service and allow substitute service for conscientious objectors (Croatia);**

122.62. **Recognize the right to conscientious objection to military service in law and practice (Croatia);**

122.63. **Implement Proclamation No. 82/1995, limiting national service obligations and cease the practice of obliging citizens to serve in an armed civilian militia (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

122.64. **Take appropriate steps with a view to releasing all imprisoned conscientious objectors without delay (Croatia);**

122.65. **End the practice of indefinite national service and initiate demobilization for those who have completed the statutory 18 months of service (Austria);**

122.66. **Immediately end the practice of indefinitely extending military service, a system which amounts to forced labour (Canada);**

122.67. **Take the necessary measures to ensure respect for human rights, including the rights of women, political rights, the rights of persons in detention and the right of freedom of expression as it pertains to the press and other media (Canada);**

122.68. **Continue efforts aimed at the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights (Colombia);**

122.69. **Pursue all efforts to preserve the progress achieved in a number of areas such as culture, education, health and the fight against social inequality (Egypt);**

122.70. **Strengthen the social welfare system to protect children in the most affected communities from harmful practices, violence and exploitation (South Sudan);**

122.71. **Strengthen its efforts aimed at enhancing human rights awareness to all sectors of the society (Sudan);**

122.72. **Adopt and implement the previous recommendations of the Human Rights Council and its Special Rapporteurs, and grant access to special procedures mandate holders (Netherlands);**

122.73. **Fully cooperate with regional and international human rights bodies (Somalia);**

122.74. **Submit all the reports due under the treaty bodies (Togo);**

122.75. **Cooperate with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders (Chad);**

122.76. **Identify, together with OHCHR, the possible areas for cooperation in the field of human rights (Paraguay);**

122.77. **Cooperate with OHCHR; allow access to an OHCHR mission to Eritrea, as requested by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and accept the visit requests made by five special procedures mandate holders (Portugal);**

122.78. **Effectively cooperate with OHCHR and the mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, and issue a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders (Tunisia);**

122.79. **Enhance its cooperation with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and OHCHR (Kenya);**

122.80. **Extend a standing invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and to all other special procedures mandate holders, and cooperate fully with OHCHR (Germany);**

122.81. **Fully cooperate with United Nations mechanisms on the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Gabon);**

122.82. **Step up cooperation with the Human Rights Council, OHCHR, special procedures and treaty bodies to address the remaining human rights challenges identified in Eritrea's report (Ghana);**

122.83. **Improve its cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to the pending visit requests and eventually consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**

122.84. **Grant the requests made by the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in 2005 and 2007 and by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to visit the country (Somalia);**

122.85. **Accept the visit requests by the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (Uruguay);**

122.86. **Enhance cooperation with all human rights mechanisms particularly by issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders (Republic of Korea);**

122.87. **Cooperate with special procedures mandate holders by responding positively to requests for information and visits (Ireland);**

122.88. **Issue a standing invitation to the United Nations human rights special procedures (Portugal);**

122.89. **Duly cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and issue a standing invitation to all special procedures (Czech Republic);**

122.90. **Cooperate with the United Nations special procedures, especially by responding positively to mandate holders' requests for visits (Brazil);**

122.91. **Cooperate with the international community, including by providing access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, in a transparent manner for the benefit of the human rights of the Eritrean people (Norway);**

122.92. **Co-operation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Romania);**

122.93. **Cooperate with the human rights mechanisms in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (South Sudan);**

122.94. **Allow the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to enter the country, fully cooperate with her and implement the relevant recommendations formulated by her (Togo);**

122.95. **Allow the Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to visit the country without further delay and fully cooperate with her (Italy);**

122.96. **Cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Montenegro);**

122.97. **Take concrete measures to allow the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to fully implement her mandate, including granting her unfettered access to the country (Sweden);**

122.98. **Further develop cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies and be ready to support the country's efforts in all aspects (Turkey);**

122.99. **Allow the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to visit the country, cooperate fully with her and give due consideration to the recommendations contained in her first report (Portugal);**

122.100. **Fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and respond without further delay to the longstanding request to visit the country (Namibia);**

122.101. **Fully cooperate with the special procedures mandate holders, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (France);**

122.102. **Invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to visit the country (Australia);**

122.103. **Offer cooperation and access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Botswana);**

122.104. **Accede to the request of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, introduced in 2003 and renewed in 2005, to visit the country (Belgium);**

122.105. **Address concerns regarding the promotion and protection of human rights expressed by the Human Rights Council in its resolutions (Namibia);**

122.106. **Submit without any delay the initial report under the Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Belgium);**

122.107. **Harmonize national laws to incorporate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular articles 9, 12, 19, 21 (Mexico);**

122.108. **Continue to make its best efforts to abolish all types of discriminatory practices against women and children, which notably includes female genital mutilation (FGM), early marriage and domestic violence (Republic of Korea);**

122.109. **Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women (Singapore);**

122.110. **Continue the efforts of women's empowerment and ensure their enjoyment of their legitimate rights (Sudan);**

122.111. **Continue its efforts towards protecting human rights, especially through promoting gender equality, and support economic empowerment of women in the country (Armenia);**

122.112. **Strengthen policies for the promotion of women (Luxembourg);**

122.113. **Provide adequate resources to implement awareness-raising activities on the role of women and strengthen the existing structures for the advancement of women in the country (Malaysia);**

122.114. **Continue to take more measures to promote gender equality and protect women and children's rights in practice (China);**

122.115. **Launch a national dialogue, as well as a campaign through media and in the schools, to tackle all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons (Italy);**

122.116. **Implement all constitutional provisions and international obligations relating to the right to life, liberty and security of person, including by unconditionally releasing all prisoners held for their political or religious beliefs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

122.117. **Abolish the death penalty (France);**

122.118. **Completely abolish the death penalty and sign and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Spain);**

122.119. **Establish an immediate official moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Montenegro);**

122.120. **Put an end to the widespread use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment as well as to arbitrary and extrajudicial executions (Djibouti);**

122.121. **Put an end to all human rights violations and release all political prisoners, civil society activists and journalists, end all practices of torture and eliminate all forms of extrajudicial executions (Tunisia);**

122.122. **Investigate all pending reports of enforced or involuntary disappearances and punish the perpetrators of these crimes (Chile);**

122.123. **Ensure that the recruitment of children into armed forces stops and that the children are not subjected to forced labour (Switzerland);**

122.124. **Intensify efforts to combat child labour and trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Philippines);**

122.125. **Intensify executive and legislative efforts to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation (Chile);**

122.126. **Intensify efforts and allocate resources for measures aimed at eradicating female genital mutilation, as a matter of priority (Croatia);**

122.127. **Continue efforts started in 2007 to promote women's rights, in particular the prohibition of all forms of female genital mutilation (France);**

122.128. **Continue its efforts to achieve the complete eradication of female genital mutilation, including by raising awareness about the risks associated with this practice and about its prohibition (Ireland);**

122.129. **Emphasize and step up the fight against female genital mutilation, working together with local communities and educating girls and women about the negative consequences of this practice (Uruguay);**

122.130. **Strengthen its efforts, in particular by prosecuting such practice and by promoting gender equality in general, in order to effectively eliminate female genital mutilation and cutting (Slovenia);**

122.131. **Continue strengthening measures aimed at achieving the eradication of female genital mutilation (Argentina);**

122.132. **Intensify its efforts to protect women from domestic and sexual violence and to ensure that acts of such violence are fully investigated and those responsible held accountable (Lithuania);**

122.133. **Work with civil society organizations to assist and redress women affected by domestic violence (Thailand);**

122.134. **Improve the penitentiary system and the situation of detainees (Russian Federation);**

122.135. **Bring to an end inhumane detention conditions and ensure that all detainees are treated in accordance with international human rights standards (Germany);**

122.136. **Guarantee the physical integrity of all prisoners, improve conditions of detention in accordance with international standards and allow unhindered access by international monitors to all detention facilities (Slovenia);**

122.137. **Immediately respect international standards of law in the treatment of prisoners, including by providing prisoners with adequate food, water and medical assistance and ending overcrowding; allow independent monitors access to all known and secret Eritrean detention facilities; notify family members of the whereabouts of detainees; and restore visiting rights and access to legal representation (Norway);**

122.138. **Keep up the current efforts in order to improve conditions of detention, including limiting the overcrowding in prisons (Egypt);**

122.139. **Be accountable for all political prisoners, in particular the members of the "G15", and release them (Djibouti);**

122.140. **Adopt measures that ensure that detainees are treated in accordance with international human rights standards, prosecute cases of torture and end arbitrary detentions of persons, including of the so-called "G15" (Spain);**

122.141. **Allow the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit places of detention and to visit prisoners of war from Djibouti (Djibouti);**

122.142. **Provide unlimited access to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to all detention facilities and provide independent monitors to access all Eritrean detention facilities, in particular the Djiboutian detainees, and ensure that international standards of law in the treatment of prisoners are respected in Eritrea (Somalia);**

122.143. **Put an end to the practice of indefinite national service and take measures, in consultation with its partners, to put an end to migration and human trafficking affecting thousands of Eritreans, including children (France);**

122.144. **Release or bring before a court all persons detained without a charge and respect international standards in the treatment of detainees (Austria);**

122.145. **Take all necessary measures to put an end to arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention without charge and without trial, especially for political reasons (France);**

122.146. **Immediately end arbitrary detention and guarantee effective legal representation, in accordance with international fair trial standards (Germany);**

122.147. **Respect the rules of fair procedure in accordance with its obligations under the international law and release immediately all persons detained without any valid reason (Switzerland);**

122.148. **That those imprisoned, suspected of holding dissenting opinions, including human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists, should be unconditionally released (Norway);**

122.149. **Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience (Spain);**

122.150. **Immediately cooperate to facilitate the release of political prisoners, improve prison conditions, and account for those prisoners who have disappeared (United States of America);**

122.151. **Continue efforts aimed at improving the administration of the justice system and the situation of persons deprived of their liberty (Ecuador);**

122.152. **Ensure that any physical or moral harm against journalists or human rights defenders is investigated and that the perpetrators are duly prosecuted (Belgium);**

122.153. **Ensure the respect of the fundamental rights and freedoms of all the population, in particular women and children, and adopt all necessary measures to guarantee the fight against the impunity of the perpetrators of crimes, acts of violence and all human rights violations (Argentina);**

122.154. **Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, opinion, conscience and religion or belief as well as the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association (France);**

122.155. **Guarantee the exercise of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including for the political opposition, journalists and civil society (Spain);**

122.156. **Take steps to improve the status of religious minorities and ensure protection for religious communities from persecution (Canada);**

122.157. **Guarantee the right to freedom of religion for the Eritrean citizens (Romania);**

122.158. **Ensure that the rights of all its people to freedom of expression, religion, and peaceful assembly are respected (Japan);**

122.159. **Respect and promote the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association in line with its international human rights obligations (Lithuania);**

122.160. **Fully respect the freedoms of expression, opinion, association and peaceful assembly in accordance with Eritrea's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);**

122.161. **Implement constitutional provisions and international obligations that support the rights to freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion and provide an opportunity to participate in free, fair, and transparent elections (United States of America);**

122.162. **Take policy and other measures which ensure the enjoyment of freedom of expression, opinion and assembly (Botswana);**

122.163. **Take concrete measures to ensure full respect for freedom of expression and of the press and release persons detained for exercising their freedom of expression, or as a result of their political views (Sweden);**

122.164. **Lift severe restrictions on freedom of expression, both online and offline, and take concrete measures to protect journalists and media workers from violence and arbitrary detention without an official charge (Czech Republic);**

122.165. **Permit the establishment of independent media outlets (Austria);**

122.166. **Allow the establishment of private media and issue licences to private broadcasting radio and television stations (Belgium);**

122.167. **Lift all the restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and of the press, including Internet freedom and fully implement its obligations in accordance with ICCPR (Estonia);**

122.168. **Ensure a conducive climate to the work of the human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists (Tunisia);**

122.169. **Continue its endeavours to ensure access to food for all its citizens as a fundamental human right (Egypt);**

122.170. **Guarantee the right to food through self-sufficiency production projects, eliminating in this manner all forms of quotas and limits imposed by the State, and additionally enabling access to the various international organizations and United Nations agencies that work on all aspects of sustainable development and food security (Mexico);**

122.171. **Continue its efforts to realize the goals of poverty reduction and universal access to primary education (Bhutan);**

122.172. **Continue to eliminate poverty, improve people's life and make efforts to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals (China);**

122.173. **Continue its efforts in protecting the rights of disadvantaged children and redouble its efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (Yemen);**

122.174. **Improve legal measures on poverty eradication and an adequate standard of living (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

122.175. **Intensify efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 in the shortest possible time (Chile);**

122.176. **Redouble its efforts to meet Millennium Development Goal 1 to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty (Malaysia);**

122.177. **Pursue the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (Algeria);**

122.178. **Continue progress towards the eradication of poverty, through the application of its laudable social policies, so as to improve the quality of life of**

its people, in particular in the areas most in need, with the cooperation and assistance as requested by this sovereign nation (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

122.179. Continue its efforts on health, education and social service system, in order to help the vulnerable and disabled people particularly women and children (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

122.180. Give continuity and strengthen positive measures underway to increase the quality and accessibility of health services for all citizens (Cuba);

122.181. Continue its current efforts to provide sustainable health care that is effective, efficient, accessible, acceptable and affordable to all citizens (Egypt);

122.182. In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), continue to improve its domestic healthcare system and provide quality healthcare services to its people (Singapore);

122.183. Train more professional health workers to fill and carry out the work of the newly established health centres (Uganda);

122.184. Continue to implement programs aimed at improving the quality of and access to education, giving particular attention to the needs of children from underprivileged families, including those in the rural and underserved areas (Philippines);

122.185. Allocate more resources to the education system, particularly education of girls, in order to achieve a successful social development level (Turkey);

122.186. Put an end to the obligation for children to follow their last year of school in the military camp of Sawa (Belgium);

122.187. Ensure that high school students do not have to undergo compulsory military training (Luxembourg);

122.188. Abolish the procedure whereby all children must undertake the final year of schooling in a military training camp and fully respect the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Portugal);

122.189. Give priority to providing access to the right to education in all parts of the country (Sudan);

122.190. Take further measures to guarantee access to education at all levels, in particular at university level (Afghanistan);

122.191. Continue to strengthen current positive efforts aimed at increasing the rates of school enrolment of its citizens, with particular emphasis on boys and girls (Cuba);

122.192. Consider taking measures which include the conducting of public awareness campaigns, and the awarding of financial or other incentives to parents to send their daughters to school (Egypt);

122.193. Launch awareness campaigns in order to encourage parents to send their children to school including girls (Togo);

122.194. Improve access to the right to education and eliminate disparities in this respect, whether regional, socioeconomic or based on ethnicity or gender (Luxembourg);

122.195. **Ensure safe repatriation and reintegration of Eritrean nationals without any fear of persecution in accordance with Eritrea's obligations under international human rights law and allow for international monitoring (Germany);**

122.196. **Take further measures to ensure protection of property rights, pursuant to international standards, including the provisions in articles 14 and 21 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and article 5 of CERD (Italy);**

122.197. **Develop an institutional programme in partnership with the Eritrean diaspora and local communities to develop programmes for production, infrastructure and social development, and eliminate the fee for residing outside of Eritrea (Mexico);**

122.198. **Work with the international community to reduce the effects of climate change (Uganda);**

122.199. **That the working group adopts the report of the UPR of Eritrea (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

122.200. **Provide them with the appropriate technical assistance in order to enhance their capacities in this aspect (Saudi Arabia).**

123. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as being endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Eritrea was headed by H.E. Mr. Tesfamicael Gerahtu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Eritrea to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and composed of:

- Mr. Mussa Hussien Naib, Director General, Ministry of Education;
- Mr. Amanuel Giorgio, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to the United Nations, New York;
- Mr. Adem Osman, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to the United Nations, Geneva;
- Ms. Tibe Kindia, Legal Advisor, Office of the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Ghebremedhin Mehari, Staff, Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to the United Nations, Geneva.